



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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County Provides Satellite Phones to Public Safety Agencies

RANCHO CUCAMONGA – The San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services is distributing satellite phones to nearly 70 public safety agencies throughout the County in an effort to enhance disaster preparedness, Board of Supervisors Chairman Paul Biane announced on Thursday.

“Communication during a major disaster will be key to getting help where it’s needed fast,” said Biane, who represents the County’s Second District. “These satellite phones will provide our emergency responders with reliable communication tools they can utilize when other devices don’t work.”

Wireless and landline phone systems could be damaged or overloaded during a major disaster. Satellite phones, which operate via orbiting satellites, would provide an alternative means of communication to emergency responders on the ground.

Eleven public safety agencies in the Second District will receive satellite phones from the County Office of Emergency Services, which purchased the phones using a \$100,000 Homeland Security Grant. The phones cost \$1,320 each. The receiving agencies are tasked with purchasing airtime for the phones and maintaining them.

The receiving Second District agencies include the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Department, Rancho Cucamonga Police Department, Upland Fire Department, Upland Police Department, Mt. Baldy Fire Department, Crest Forest Fire Protection District, Fontana Police Department, and the Fontana Fire Protection District. In addition, the cities of Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga and Upland will receive satellite phones for their Emergency Operation Centers.

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